LIBRARY JOURNAL®

JANUARY 1992

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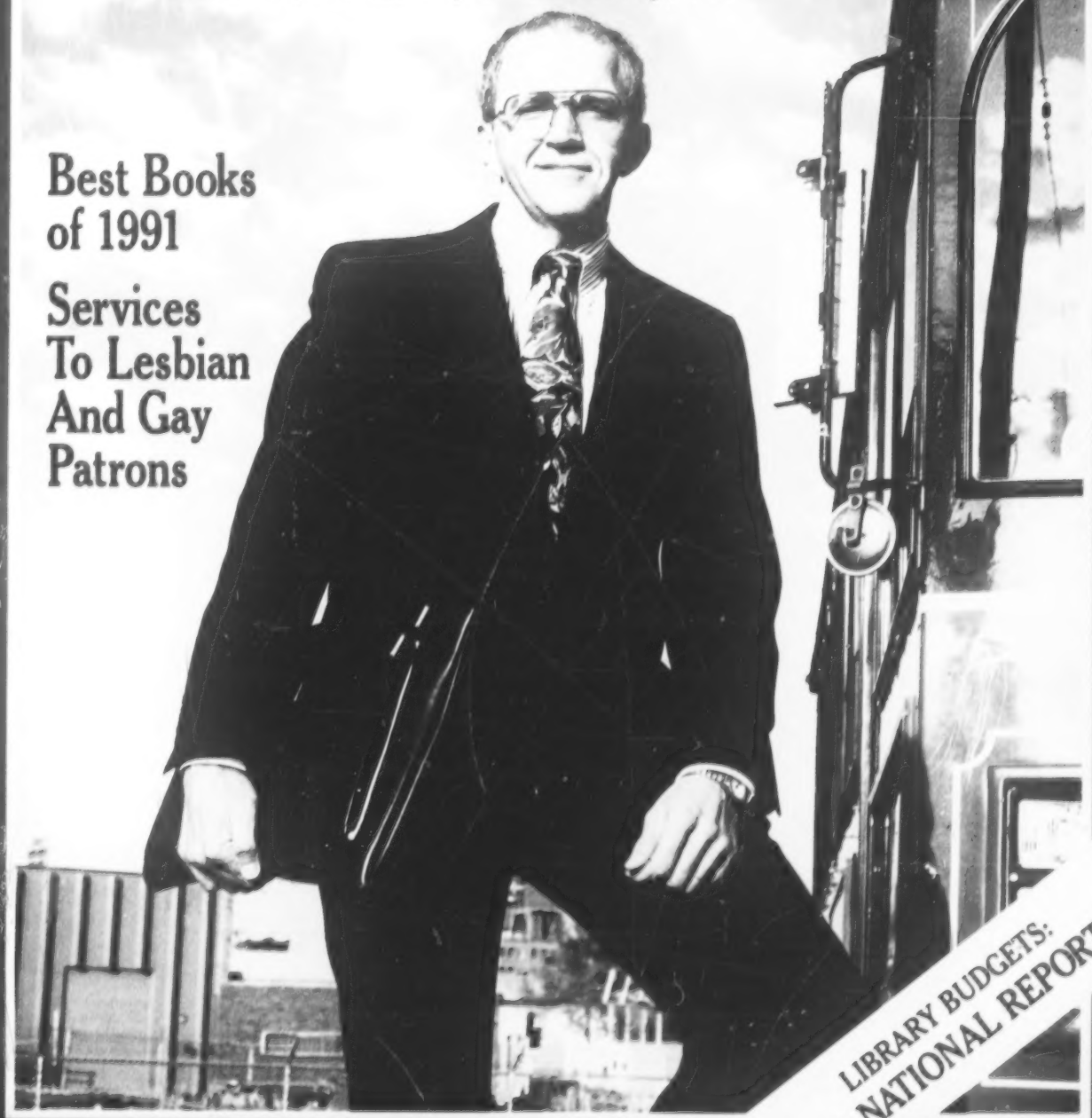
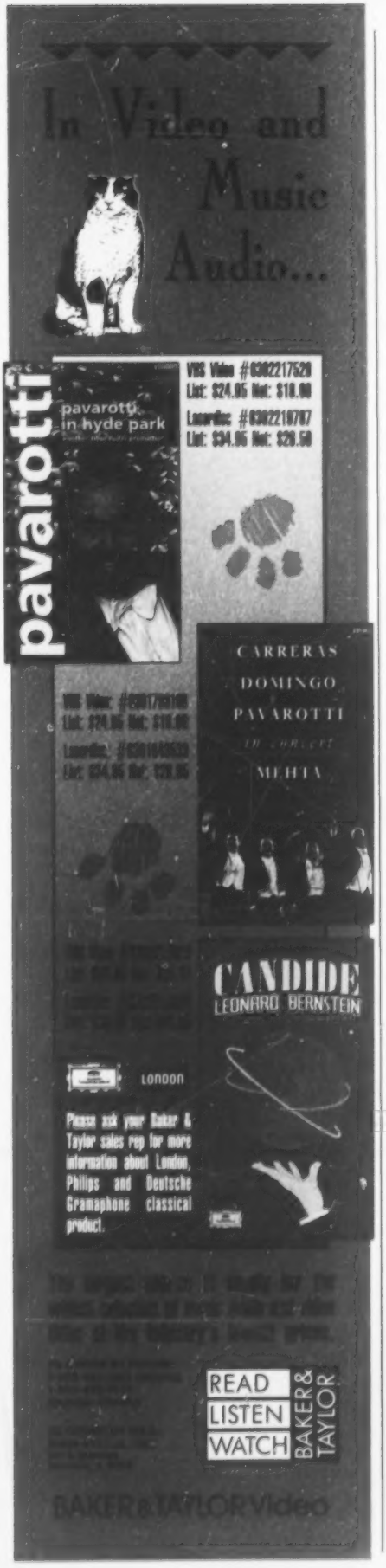
Librarian of the Year 1991
Daniel J. Bradbury
Director, Kansas City Public Library, Mo.



Best Books of 1991

Services To Lesbian And Gay Patrons

LIBRARY BUDGETS: A NATIONAL REPORT



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Stepping off Kansas City's trolley car is K.C. Public Library Director Daniel J. Bradbury. His uphill, ultimately successful battle to steer his system back to prosperity has made him our Librarian of the Year. His saga begins on p. 47.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB BARRETT

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LIBRARY MARKET OUTLOOK

BY DEBORAH SELSKY

Libraries To Spend $1.45 Billion on Books

Decreasing tax revenues have brought cutbacks in local government spending and tighter library budgets. There are still regional differences, but the effects of the current recession have begun to impact library budgets and will do so for several years.

The Book Industry Study Group (BISG) estimates library spending on materials at $2.6 billion for 1991, up 5.7% over 1990. After adjusting for inflation, however, the growth rate is flat for the year. Be sure to note, however, that word "estimates." The data are taken from the Group's annual *Book Industry Trends*. BISG simply extrapolates data "based on the earlier *Trends*." None of the data are totally reliable or precise. Estimates of library purchases in various book markets are likely to be based on conservative estimates going back several years, since there is no new hard data.

The current estimates do show that about $1.38 billion of library spending went for books last year—a gain of 4.4%. The smallest sector—special libraries—represents 10% of all library book purchases and increased spending the most at 7.2%. The largest sector—public libraries—accounted for 37.5 percent of library book spending and increased book expenditures by 5% last year. Book spending by school and academic libraries rose 4.2% and 2.6%, respectively.

Spend more, get less

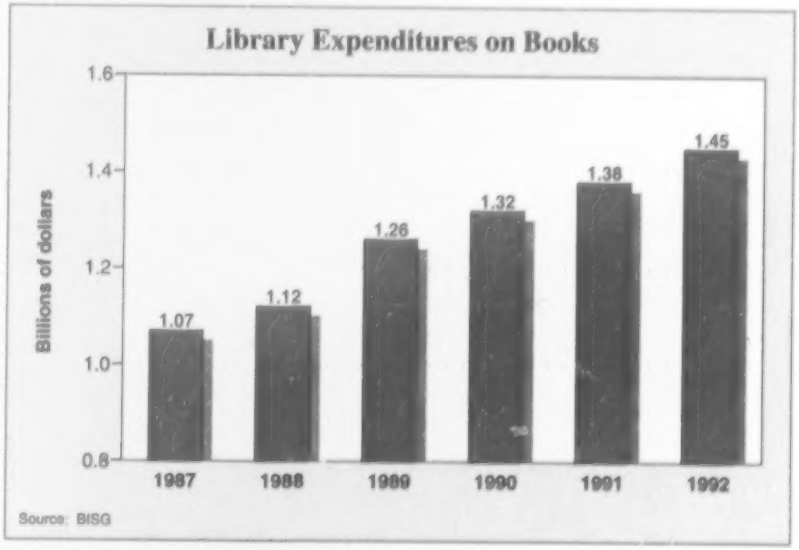
Total library materials expenditures in 1992 are projected to grow 6.7%. Materials price inflation is in the 4-5% range, although it is much higher for serials (journals). Thus, the increased spending in 1992 will not result in growth in library collections. The rapid growth in periodical prices will force libraries to spend a larger portion of their budgets on periodicals.

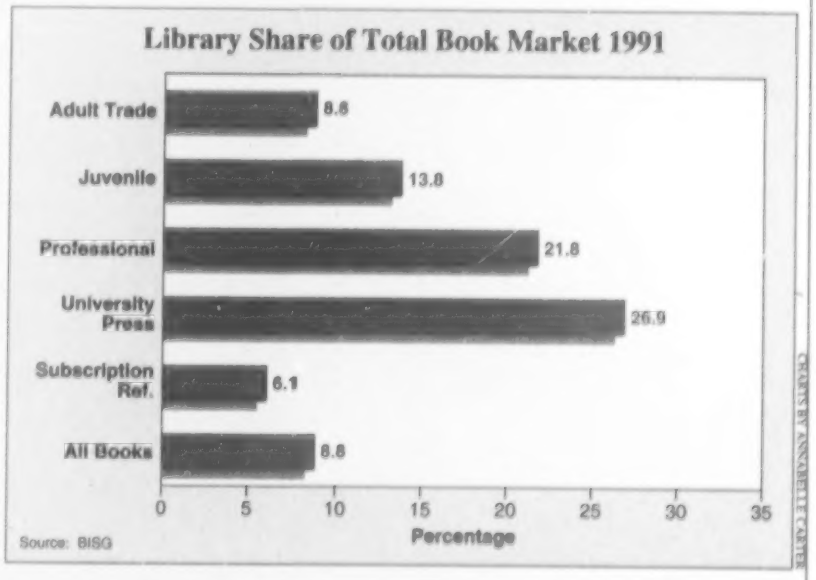
In 1986, book spending was 54% of all library acquisitions. By 1991, this share had dropped to 51 percent. Still, spending on books should remain healthy. In 1992, book acquisitions should total $1.45 billion.

A stable, growing market

Libraries remain a stable, growing market for books. Even the low estimates from the conservative BISG show libraries buying 10.6% of all books sold. BISG admits that libraries play a more significant role in certain book categories. Libraries buy 26.9% of university press books and 21.8% of professional books. BISG estimates that libraries buy 13.8% of juvenile trade books, but many feel that figure is low.

Over the longer term, library spending on books should grow 6.4% per year through 1995, adding an additional 2.1 million books to libraries each year. Public libraries will be responsible for 43% of these purchases.





Deborah Selsky is an economist with Cahners Economics, which provides industry analyses and forecasting services for the markets its magazines serve

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Editorial Offices: Library Journal, 249 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011; 212-463-6819; FAX 212-463-6734 or 212-463-6890.
Sales Offices: Library Journal, 249 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011. Diane Carey, 212-463-6808; Nancy Iori, 212-463-6795; Karen Massimino, 212-463-6798; Lorena Parrish, 212-463-6799.
Midwest: Cahners Publishing, 1350 E. Touhy Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60018-3358. Ron Shank, 708-390-2927.
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